JASPER-YELLOWHEAD HISTORICAL SOCEITY, MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

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climate and consequent difference in the character of the country and its productions which takes place in the course of a few minutes walk would to a person who had not experienced it appear almost incredible. About the height of land and on the East side thereof for several Days Journey the Timber is small and stunted but no sooner do we begin to descend the West side than we fall on the most noble trees I ever beheld, principally Cedar, Hemlock White & Red Pine and Ash all of prodigious size. From the Committee's Punch Bowl to the Base of the Mountain on the West side we occupied 4½ hours in walking, 2 hours of which were consumed in what is called the Grande Côte where our descent could not be less than 40 feet p minute; the other part is not so steep but the descent may be safely reckoned at 15 to 20 feet p minute so that after making a fair allowance for time lost in falls breathing &c. I think without exaggeration I may estimate the height of this single mountain at not less than 4500 feet; this is the lowest pass in the mountain behind which and on each side thereof are immense masses of mountain piled upon and overlooking each other, the principal of which is a huge mountain known by the name of McGillivray's Rock in honor of the Honble W^m^ McGillivray the top of which was enveloped in fog but as far as we could judge by the eye double the height of that described which would make it exceeding 13,000 feet. At and before reaching the height of Land the Cold was intense but immediately after we began to descend the difference of climate was as great as between Summer & Winter and in vegetation the contrast was fully as much.

This was a most harassing Day to our poor horses and many a cruel blow they got from their unfeeling Drivers, it was evident that the Honble member for Galway's Bill against cruelty to Animals was not in force in the Rocky Mountain.

Tuesday, Oct. 19th The Weather fine, left our Encampment after . . . and got to the Boat Encampment; having disposed of the celebrated Athabasca Portage which altho not exceeding from Jaspers House 120 miles and from Henry's House 80 to 90 occupied us six Days in crossing . . .

At our Encampment fell in with a band of free Iroquois who have for several